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The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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Wallace-Jones Feud Provokes New Crisis

Long-Smoldering Conflict Between BEW and RFC Breaks Out into the Open

STRONG CHARGES ARE MADE

Each Accuses Other of Impeding War Effort. Most Serious Breach in Administrative Circles

Last week an event on the home front crowded the war news for first place in the headlines. It was a startling event, and not a happy one at a time when the fullest cooperation of all citizens, in and out of the government hierarchy, is needed to win the war. Vice-President Henry A. Wallace accused Secretary of Commerce Jesse H. Jones of obstructing the war effort.

It was as head of the Board of Economic Warfare that Wallace made his charge. The accusation, made before a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, struck at Jones' policies as head of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the agency which serves as banker for BEW. Jones replied with the counter-accusation that BEW, under Wallace's leadership, is so visionary as to be itself a hindrance to the national program.

Until April 13, 1942, RFC itself controlled the government's purchases of strategic materials—rubber, quinine, etc.—from foreign countries. Back in the summer of 1940 Congress had authorized it to build up stockpiles of defense materials through a government-financed import program. It was understood that other agencies dealing with particular aspects of our preparation for war would advise RFC on what should be bought.

RFC the Banker

BEW's function at that time was to draw up general strategy for the economic offensive and make recommendations on purchases to the RFC. On April 13, 1942, however, BEW was given almost complete responsibility for stockpiling. But RFC stayed on as banker. Secretary Jones must sign over the money before a BEW purchase can go through.

Conflict between the two agencies did not begin with Wallace's recent charge. Last December Jones urged the Senate to give RFC a veto power over BEW expenditures. At that time, Wallace and Milo Perkins, BEW's executive director, made many of the charges included in the present statement against Jones.

The present controversy involves basic business policy. Wallace has said that Jones' fear of a bad investment—from the money standpoint, not with regard to war necessity—has caused him to delay highly important purchases. When stockpiling was his sole responsibility, Wallace adds, purchases fell woefully

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Bombs Away!

USAAF FROM ACME

The "Madhouse" Rumors

By Walter E. Myer

I have just returned from a trip to the Middle West. During recent months I have spent some time in other sections of the country, and after each trip I have come back with the conviction that false impressions of the national capital are current and that I should do what I can in a small way to present a truer picture of what is happening in Washington. Everywhere I have gone I have heard Washington referred to as a "Madhouse." That term has in some way gained wide currency. The idea prevails that all is confusion here in the capital. The word "Washington" brings to people's minds a picture of hurry and bustle and excitement, a vision of crowds milling about, of disordered offices, of tenseness, indecision, of confusion in the forming and execution of public policies.

It is a fact that there are crowds in Washington and that many of the public services are overtaxed. But the same condition prevails in every city of the nation where war industries are concentrated. It is hard to get a room in a Washington hotel, or, for that matter, in a New York, Chicago, or Kansas City hotel. A newcomer in Washington will have difficulty in locating a room, an apartment, or a house. He will have equal difficulty in scores of other cities. One cannot pick up a taxi here at will, but I came very near to missing a train a few months ago in Wichita because taxis were not available. Auto traffic here is far below normal because of the gas shortage. Streets and shops are somewhat crowded, here as elsewhere. But to the Washington resident, secure in the possession of living quarters, this is still a fairly quiet place, relatively free from the noise and crowding which characterize large American cities.

But far more important is the question of governmental activity. Are policies being decided upon and carried out with deliberation or in the midst of haste and heedlessness? The best answer can be found in an examination of results achieved. The great national objective of the moment is military success. Our government can rightly be judged by the degree of its success in getting on with the war. And anyone who compares the military situation today with the situation a year ago will surely feel that we are making very substantial progress. Powerful armies and air forces have been moved across oceans. Our efforts have helped materially in turning the tide against what, a year ago, seemed an invincible enemy. Military and also industrial mobilization have proceeded at a rate which a few months ago would have seemed impossible. More than half the energies of the nation have been turned to a new industry—warmaking. Difficulties and controversies have arisen in the course of this gigantic operation. But results have been achieved, and they have not been achieved by "Madhouse" management.

In saying this I am not arguing for the Roosevelt administration and against its opponents. I am not laying the foundations

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Ruhr Suffers Fierce Allied Air Attacks

Need for Greater Air Defenses May Cut German Striking Power Elsewhere

FACTORIES, RAILWAYS HIT

Reich's Industry Decentralized but Ruhr Valley Still Main Source of Coal, Iron, Steel

For over a year now, the Ruhr has been the favorite target of heavy Allied bombing raids. Last month this area suffered the grimmest aerial offensive of the war. Conducting nine major attacks on seven Ruhr cities, the Royal Air Force dropped an average of 1,500 tons of bombs per raid, nearly 20 times the nightly German average attained during the 90-day blitz on London. On June 22, American airmen visited the Ruhr for the first time. In one of the best jobs of precision bombing of the war, they attacked a large factory at Huls, where the Germans manufacture one-fifth of their synthetic rubber. R.A.F. reconnaissance gave evidence that the raids had cut the Ruhr's industrial output 35 per cent.

Nazi broadcasters call the devastation wrought in the Ruhr "unbelievable," "beyond human imagination." Gone is the Goering boast of August, 1939: "The Ruhr industrial districts are safely protected against foreign air raids. I have provided the Ruhr territory with the greatest protection that is militarily and humanly possible." Even while key cities were blazing and crews were working to clear the wreckage, the Nazis were erecting a gigantic aerial Maginot line to ward off the planes. Hitler rushed more than 1,000 fighter planes to the area, almost half of Germany's total supply. Beams from tens of thousands of searchlights threaded the smog-filled skies, and at least 30,000 antiaircraft guns with 1,500,000 troops to man them were in readiness for the ever-returning raiders.

Gains and Losses

These increased defenses took their toll of 185 heavy British and United States bombers, dead and wounded airmen, broken crews, and shattered squadrons. The average Allied air losses rose from five to almost 10 per cent. The defenses took a greater toll, however, of the Germans. Their fighter planes had to be deflected from other areas, notably the Russian and southern European fronts. To the 37 American bombers downed, 100 German fighter planes were lost. With more defensive planes being manufactured, there will be fewer German bombers in the coming months. The combination of continued British saturation bombing at night with American precision bombing during the day is proving one of the Allies' most potent offensive weapons.

Huddled in an area roughly 40 by 40 miles, the seven bombed cities

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The landing of the Pilgrims

The Wind of a Western Star

There was a wind over England, and it blew.
(Have you heard the news of Virginia?)
A west wind blowing, the wind of a western star,
To gather men's lives like pollen and cast them forth . . .

That was how it began—the great westward movement which was to transplant people from all over the world to a strange and unknown country, the movement which was to people America.

Stephen Vincent Benet, until his recent death one of America's great contemporary poets, has described the early stages of this pilgrimage across the seas in a new book which he titles *Western Star* (New York: Farrar and Rinehart. \$2). In it he tries to tell what kind of people watched restlessly as the little ships set sail from England, how the first settlers felt in the long, fearful journeys, and what they found as they struggled for a foothold in the wilderness of the New World.

It was something which had never happened before. As he says, it was as though we in our own time were to set off in rocket ships for a new planet. We can look back now on the first settlers' mistakes, but . . .

. . . we would have all done better—no doubt of that.
We would not have squatted down in a fever-marsh
Just as the mosquitoes bred and the heat began.
(The Pilgrims did not—and yet the Pilgrims died.)
We would have known which Indians were friendly.
(Let's hope we know as much of the Martians.)
We'd not have quarreled and wrangled—with a crew
Made up of ex-soldiers, fledgling aviators,
Truck drivers, furniture salesmen, drugstore clerks,
Machinists, workmen, a radio announcer
And a sprinkling of nice clean boys from Yale or Harvard.
We'd have known the Martian birds and the Martian beasts
The ways of the Martian climate and all the ropes.
In fact, we would have done wonders.

Yes, they made mistakes. They did not know what to expect, for most of what they had heard came from the boastful yarns of sailors back from the voyages of discovery. And they did not come with careful plans for building up a new country. Most of them came because they thought it would be an adventure, because they

thought it would make them rich, or because there seemed to be no place for them at home.

But the motley collection on the *Mayflower*, the *Discovery*, the *Good-speed*, and all the other frail and crowded ships, did wonders in spite of themselves. They staked out their primitive towns and stockades from the Carolinas to the St. Lawrence River, and stayed with them. Many died of hunger and disease and many more in the bitter struggles with the Indians. But there were others who found new lives.

The poet takes Dickon, a young baker's apprentice, as one to whom the great voyage brought a far different destiny than Europe could have offered. Dickon met his end when Indians swarmed over his fields, shooting and burning, but he was first able to reflect:

. . . and this is a world where a man starts clear
Once he's paid the price of getting here.
For here is a knight and a Newgate debtor
And which of the two will prove the better?

As so many others had, Dickon set off from London because he was poor and wanted a chance at the easy money of the wild continent where, the tales had it, there was gold on every hand. But something else came of it,

. . . for we live under another sky
From men who have never crossed the seas,
The fleas that vex us are other fleas.
I thought I came for a lump of gold
But I shall die a squire of land
With my sons about me hardy and bold,
And something grown that I never planned.

It was the same with those whose compasses steered them to the New England coast, or Virginia, or New York. True, there were people who tried to fence in the New World with ideas from the Old, but there was always room. Roger Williams did not have to give up his ideas of religious freedom—he took them with him and started a new colony. There was always room, and always people who wanted to find out what lay beyond the next hill, or who had different ideas from their neighbors.

So America came into being. It came to mean people who were always moving on—people who had learned that they could rely on themselves and who liked doing it—people who could not let any kind of a frontier alone. As Benet says,

So when you ask about Americans,
I cannot tell their motives or their plans
Or make a neat design of what they are
I only see the fortune and the bane,
The fortune of the breakers of the earth
The doom arisen in the western star.

Joseph Hurst Ball

"Reporter in the Senate"

ONE of the most-talked-of subjects on Capitol Hill during recent months has been the Ball-Burton-Hill-Hatch resolution which would have the Senate go on record as favoring United States initiative in calling an immediate conference of the United Nations to discuss several questions. Among them are the temporary governments of the Axis-dominated nations as they are occupied by United Nations forces; maintenance of a United Nations military force to suppress future aggression; and provision for machinery to settle disagreements among nations. The senator who is given credit for having written the resolution is Joseph Hurst Ball, Republican from Minnesota.

Joe Ball came to Washington in the summer of 1940 when he was named by Governor Stassen to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Ernest Lundeen. Last November he was elected to a regular term by the people of Minnesota, even though he stood for a decidedly interventionist program in a state where isolationism had been the order of the day for years. Political observers wondered what brought about the transformation and are of the opinion that contributing to it was the straightforward manner in which the ex-newspaperman explained to the people, many of recent European extraction, the dangers of a Hitler-dominated world.

Ball is one of the Senate's younger members; he was only 38 when Stassen appointed him. He is married to the girl with whom he worked on a newspaper back home. They have three children. Ball likes to call himself a "reporter in the Senate" and lives up to that name. Each week he prepares for some 300 newspapers back home a news summary

which is surprisingly frank in tone.

The senator from Minnesota has been chiefly interested in international affairs during his stay in Congress. Although he is a Republican, his views on this subject do not place him in the same category with some of the members of his party. For instance, he stood firmly for the passage of the lend-lease law, even though his mail told him that his constituents were almost two to one in opposition to it. He also voted for the repeal of the Neutrality Act under similar opposition from home. Now to further his avowed interest in seeing to it that the United States accepts a responsible role in international affairs, he is pushing passage of Senate Resolution 114.

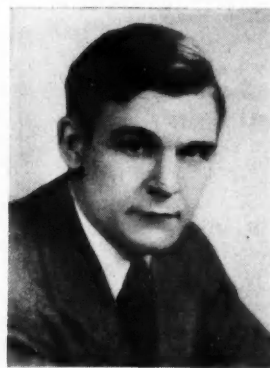
Ball is a member of three important Senate committees, the Truman, the Banking and Currency, and Education and Labor. On

the Truman committee, which has been in the news so prominently, he has been a valuable and an intelligent investigator.

The political future of the junior senator from Minnesota will be interesting to watch. He belongs to the wing of the party which includes such men as Willkie and Stassen. These Republicans would have the United States participate ex-

tensively in international affairs after the war.

Strong forces are at work within the Republican party to make certain that there will be no return to the old policy of isolation after the war. A group formed last May, the Republican Postwar Policy Association, which is backing a five-point program of cooperation in world affairs, is coming forward as a potent influence in the party. This summer it is holding a series of regional meetings for the purpose of rallying Republican political leaders to its cause.



Senator Ball

SMILES

First soldier (regaling a group of girls with an exaggerated account of his part in capturing a small town): "Then an explosion tore up the main street."

Girls: "Goodness! And what did you do?"

Second soldier: "He tore up a side street." —PATHFINDER

Hostess: "Will you join me in a cup of tea?"

Guest: "Will there be room for both of us?" —MONTREAL STAR



"Hm! Those first aid students must have been here."
COLLIER IN BOY'S LIFE

"You must be keen on the movies, old boy, to go twice a week."
"It's not that exactly. You see, if I don't go regularly, I can't understand what my grandchildren are saying." —WALL STREET JOURNAL

A couple of Swiss journalists arrested in Tokyo protested that they were neutrals.

"No, you are neutral enemies," replied a Tokyo police officer.

"What do you call the United States and Great Britain?" asked the unhappy Swiss.

"They are belligerent enemies."
"And what are Germans and Italians?"

"They are friendly enemies." —YORKSHIRE POST

"How is your garden doing these days?"

"My cutworms and beetles were never better, but my potato bugs look undernourished for some reason." —FAMILY CIRCLE

The insurance agent asked the prospect: "Did you ever have appendicitis?"

"Well," answered the prospect, "I was operated on, but I have never been quite certain whether it was appendicitis or professional curiosity." —EXCHANGE

Congress Cracks Down on OWI

"THE establishment of the Office of War Information is one of the most constructive steps which has been taken toward the coordination of agencies engaged in the war effort. The selection of Mr. Davis as director is equally significant and gratifying."

The House Appropriations Committee entered this statement on the record last summer when Elmer Davis first went before Congress asking for funds for the brand new OWI. If Elmer Davis remembers those remarks today, they must strike him as bitter irony. Just a few days ago—scarcely a year since the above statement was made—that same Appropriations Committee attacked Mr. Davis harshly, and slashed to ribbons his requests for money for the use of the domestic branch of OWI during the next fiscal year. Pursuing this lead, a rebellious Congress granted OWI only a fraction of the money needed to operate the domestic program.

This week, as a result, OWI is

not unflinchingly face, as long as they are truthfully informed as to the reasons for making such demands on them. . . ."

In carrying out this double program of informing the people and persuading them, OWI has drawn upon every resource of communication available in this country. A staff of highly capable writers has been assembled—some of them well-known authors, others first-rate magazine and newspaper writers. Until recently the Publications Division issued a steady stream of printed materials—especially pamphlets—designed to inform the people about the aims of the war, the background and nature of the problems related to the war, and the plans for a better post-war world.

One of the best known of these pamphlets was "The Thousand Million," a series of descriptive stories about each of the United Nations and their part in the war. "Divide and Conquer" (originally produced by the Office of Facts and Figures) told the story of the Nazi terror and of the propaganda techniques employed by Hitler and Goebbels. "Tale of a City" was a poignant story of the destruction of Warsaw. Based on factual material and illustrated by a Polish artist, it provided a deadly warning to all men who are still blessed with freedom. "Four Freedoms" explained in simple language the meaning of the major goals of the

so forth. Many of these have become common sights to all Americans.

Field Operations, too, have felt the axe. The field offices of OWI were located in major defense areas all over the country, and served as information centers for the defense agencies located there, providing accurate information about government regulations, and digging up local stories about the success of the war effort. All the defense agencies in these war centers will now have to set up their own separate information bureaus, instead of relying on the central OWI agency.

The other major domestic activity of OWI being curtailed is that of the Motion Picture Bureau. This agency has made and issued some two dozen films, which are being shown in movie theaters as short features. "Right of War," for example, told the story of troop movements, and explained the necessity for not talking about such movements. It also showed how shortage of transportation necessarily caused shortages of goods from time to time. Other films were on such subjects as paratroopers, doctors at war, Japanese relocation, salvage, conservation, and the manpower problem.

Although Hollywood had openly praised this film work, Congress has now decreed that all films in the future must be made by the movie industry, and OWI must content itself with liaison work—feeding ideas to the motion picture industry about what subjects need to be covered, and when they best may be released to gear in with press and radio campaigns.

Some parts of OWI's domestic program will be allowed to continue on limited funds. These include the Radio Bureau, which handles contacts with the radio industry, clears government requests for time, and allocates the time among the various agencies; the Photographic Division, which helps press associations and news services get pictures for use in carrying out the information program of the government; Program Coordination, which hires skilled advertising experts to work out drives for war bonds, the Red Cross, and so on (it now has 38 campaigns under way).

The very important Domestic News Bureau will also continue. It clears



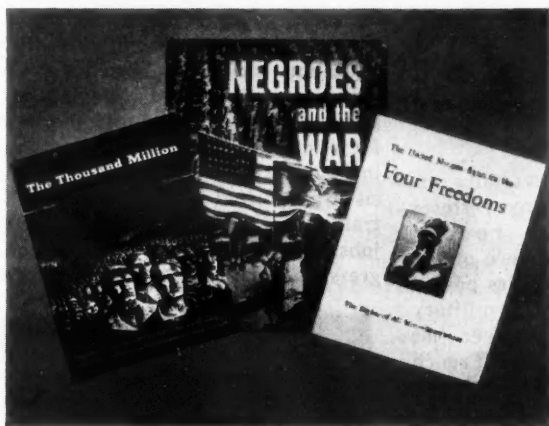
Palmer Hoyt, publisher of the Portland Oregonian, chief of the domestic branch of OWI.

official press releases to insure accuracy and consistency between different agencies, and prepares background stories about aspects of the war program which cut across agency lines, such as the matter of food rationing, for example. The Bureau of Special Services will continue to do research for all the bureaus in the domestic branch, and will serve as a clearing house for answering public inquiries about government agencies, their functions, and their personnel.

Post-Mortem

The continuation of several other units is still in question. One is the Speech Clearance Unit. It was set up to edit and approve all public utterances of government officials, because it was discovered that frequently officials were issuing contradictory statements, and statements out of line with established government policy.

There is, perhaps, no better post-mortem on the domestic branch of OWI than that made by the New York Times: "This domestic organization, if it has made mistakes, has also done much useful work. It has succeeded in making available to the public much more information, much more promptly, about the activities of the military and naval services than was available before Mr. Davis went to work. It has eliminated a good deal of the duplication and confusion which formerly prevailed in the public announcements of the government. It has checked, if not entirely dammed, the immense torrent of propaganda that once poured from competitive press agents in Washington."



Some OWI publications.

closing the doors of its 60 field offices. Upwards of 600 OWI employees are being transferred or are looking for new jobs, for there are no more funds for field operations, domestic publications, motion picture making, or graphics and printing work. For the future, OWI will be concerned almost entirely with carrying on foreign propaganda, the other half of the job which it has done in the last year.

OWI's Work

To understand the place of OWI's work on the home front, one might well consider the purpose of that work, as outlined by the director himself. "This is a people's war," says Elmer Davis, "and the people are entitled to know as much as possible about it. . . . Our job at home is not only to tell the American people how the war is going, but where it is going and where it came from—its nature and origin, how our government is conducting it, and what (besides national survival) our government hopes to get out of victory."

Thus the first major function of OWI at home has been to report the progress of the war. But there has been a corollary task, one of equal importance. That has been the job of persuading the American public to take action on certain matters—such as buying war bonds, refraining from hoarding, and conserving materials. Davis has proceeded on the assumption that "there are no privations which the people will not willingly endure, no sacrifices which they will

war. These are typical examples of the printed matter which OWI may no longer publish.

Controversy

A somewhat controversial publication was a handsomely illustrated, magazine-size pamphlet entitled "Negroes and the War." It was written at the request of the armed forces to build morale. The government had discovered that Axis propaganda in this country was aimed at persuading the Negro that this is a white man's war; thus it was deemed important to show how Negroes are doing important things to help win the war, and that they have a great stake in an Allied victory. But southern congressmen did not take kindly to publication of such matters, and it is significant that of the 50 Democratic Representatives who voted to kill the domestic program of OWI (and especially the publication of pamphlets), all but three were from the South.

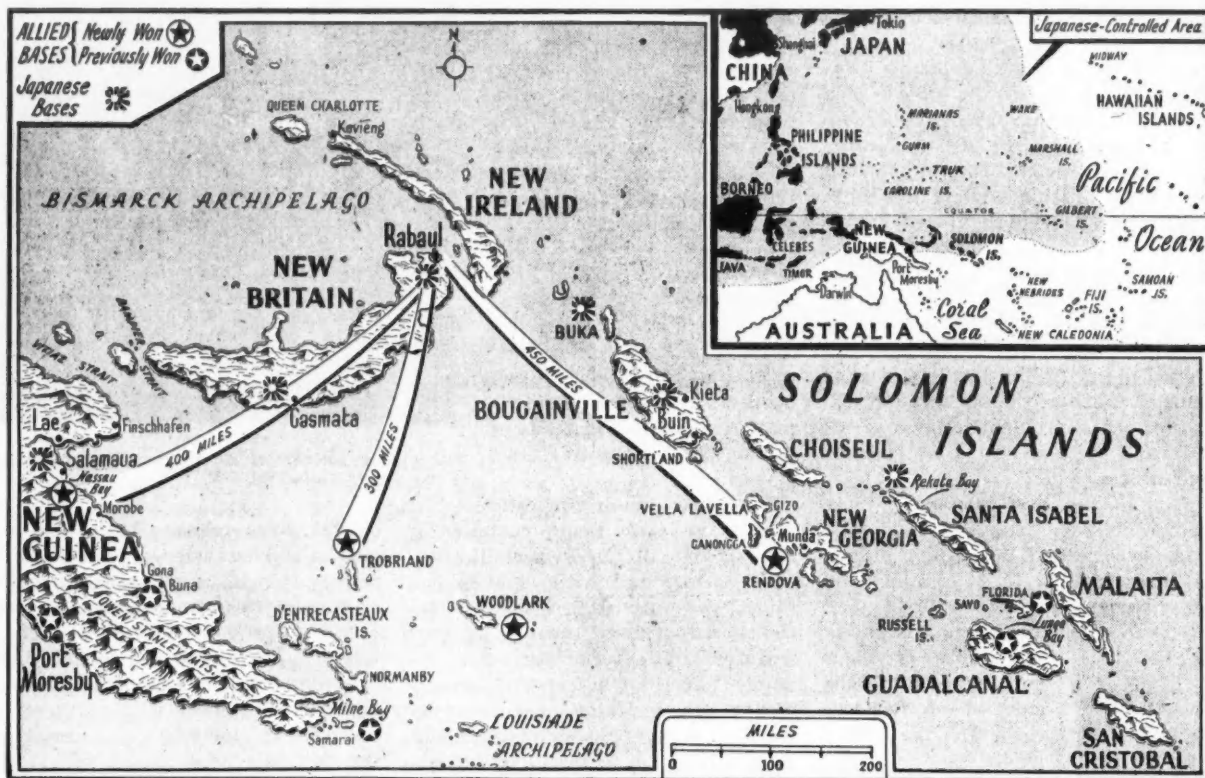
OWI had intended to have some of its best writers study a group of important problems, such as taxation and inflation, and present basic background material so that the people could understand these problems. This would have geared in to the educational programs OWI has been carrying on by press and radio against inflation and other evils. But this plan will never be carried out because of Congress' action.

The Graphics and Printing Division also must be dropped. It had issued numerous posters and cartoons for educational use in bond drives and



This scene from an OWI movie short stresses the close relationship between civilian war workers and the armed forces.

The Story of the Week



United Nations armed forces open a new offensive in the South Pacific

War Fronts

Two offensive movements of the greatest importance were under way last week on opposite sides of the globe. The first saw American forces opening a new drive in the South Pacific. Commanded by General MacArthur, our soldiers and Marines struck at Japanese positions in the arc of islands above Australia.

Rendova island, in the central Solomons, was taken and landings were made in New Georgia as our forces fought to capture the strategic Japanese base at Munda. The more distant objectives of the present offensive are the vital enemy center at Rabaul on New Britain, and the powerful fortress on the tiny island of Truk, farther to the north in the Caroline group. Japanese use of near-obsolete planes in their defense indicates that American air supremacy in this area is secure.

The second great offensive to break in full fury last week was the long-awaited German drive against the Russians. Choosing the site of one of their mightiest efforts last year, the Nazis hurled a heavy force against Russian positions near Orel, Kursk, and Belgorod. Reports indicate that the Nazi force is somewhere around 211 divisions—almost as large as the one Hitler sent against the Russians last year.

As we go to press, losses on both sides have been great, but although the Russians admit penetrations on some parts of the front, neither side has advanced to any extent. Opinion is divided as to whether Hitler intends to divert the home population from present bombings and losses on other fronts, or whether he has serious ambitions to take Moscow this summer.

Our own forces continued the air siege on continental Europe. Sicily, Sardinia, and the Italian coast took the hardest pounding to be meted out since the fall of Pantelleria. Over Germany, the round-the-clock schedule continued, with special concentration on Cologne and Ham-

burg. Three points in France, important for their industrial and U-boat concentrations, were also heavily bombed.

Martinique

After three years of steadfast allegiance to Vichy, Admiral Robert, provincial governor of Martinique, was negotiating with the American Navy last week. Giving way before both French and American pressure, the Admiral has signified his willingness to arrange a change of authority in the strategic little Caribbean island. As things stand now, Martinique may soon join the ranks of the United Nations.

Robert has placed only one condition on his capitulation. He asks that the United States guarantee that there will be no American occupation of the West Indian islands belonging to France. In this stand, he is backed by Frenchmen of all persuasions.

A good part of the dissension in the French Committee of Liberation is rooted in resentment of the control which the Americans and British

must exercise over French affairs until the defeat of Germany restores French sovereignty. In recent months, much of the influence of our government on French affairs passed from the diplomatic to the military branches. General Eisenhower has become the final arbiter in French North Africa, and our naval forces the prime negotiators in the Caribbean. Now that Martinique has shown willingness to cooperate in the defense of the latter area, however, it is thought that no occupation will be necessary.

Coal Situation

With the passage of the Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Bill and the return of the miners to work, production of coal and steel is resuming its swing. The position of neither miners nor operators has changed very much, and coal is being mined under the supervision of the government. Under a War Labor Board order, miners are to receive \$50 vacation pay, which is an increase of \$30, and are no longer forced to pay for their mining equipment.

Fuel Administrator Harold L. Ickes has appointed Carl E. Newton Director of Mine Operations. Both have called upon miners and operators alike for maximum production, but have no jurisdiction over wages or contracts. Under their management, the owners are still operating their mines, but as agents of the government. According to the provisions of the Labor Disputes Act, the mines must be returned to their owners within 60 days. Other provisions of the Act, however, make this questionable.

Mr. Lewis has announced that the miners would work for the government, but not for the owners. Thus, at the end of 60 days, if the mines are returned and if there were danger of interrupted production or a strike threat, the President would be empowered to take over the mines for another 60 days. This would be a perfectly legal procedure which could

continue indefinitely. How the Smith-Connally Act will actually affect labor relations in the mines therefore remains to be seen.

Death of NYA

NYA is dead. A rebellious House of Representatives has added NYA to the casualty list of New Deal agencies, and a reluctant Senate has finally given its consent. A small sum of money has been granted, with which the organization must wind up its affairs by January 1.

Like many other New Deal bureaus, NYA was depression-born, designed to aid the war on unemployment. It was created in 1935 to provide part-time jobs and skilled training for youths from 17 to 25 who were not in school, and to give part-time employment to needy students from 16 to 25. In seven years' time it gave work ranging from construction jobs to research to almost 5,000,000 young people, about half of whom were students. Many of these could not have finished their education had it not been for NYA.

In recent years the changing employment situation reduced the need for student aid, and NYA correspondingly changed its direction. Emphasis was shifted from relief to the training of young people for war jobs. It was at this point that congressional critics made their attack,



"THIS IS THE ARMY." The movie version of the famous Army stage hit has been completed. The stage show made \$2,000,000 for Army Emergency Relief and the motion picture is expected to pile up even more. Above, Irving Berlin, who wrote the show, appears as a soldier in World War I singing his famous "Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning."

charging that NYA was not getting sufficient results to warrant its expenditures. Although three out of every hundred war workers received their training from NYA, the critics maintained that it cost more than it was worth. And so, NYA was killed.

Argentina Drifts

More than a month has passed since Argentina's presidency changed hands, and the Allied nations are beginning to have their doubts about the new administration. For events in Argentina have not justified the early hopes that the nation would move toward closer cooperation with the anti-Axis forces.

So far Argentina has failed to make a clear-cut diplomatic break with the Axis, the move most desired of her. Instead, she has made the single concession of banning ob-



NEW DRIVE against Russia is opened by the Germans in the Orel sector. It remains to be seen whether German attacks can be made on the scale of 1941 and 1942.

vious code messages to Europe—a channel through which Axis spies had been sending their information about war moves in the Western Hemisphere. But Argentina is apparently refraining from making a break until she can gain large lend-lease benefits from the United States in return.

This attitude of bargaining on her part is wearing thin the patience of the United States, and it is believed she will gain considerably less than had she acted quickly. Furthermore, Argentina has made such anti-Allied moves as disbanding a pro-Allied women's group; suspending an English language newspaper for an anti-Axis editorial printed last February; and maintaining the censorship that has prevented expression of pro-Allied opinion.

On the whole, the new government has shown a fascist character, not only in these actions, but by postponing elections that might have permitted the people to express their feelings.

Greatest Airport

New York City is making doubly sure of its place in the air age by constructing the world's largest airport, a terminal that dwarfs the city's La Guardia Field, which was considered enormous when it was opened for operations three years ago.

Despite the present lack of publicity about it, the new field will command world-wide attention when it is completed. Its 13 miles of runways will include several which are two miles long and 200 feet wide, capable of supporting planes weighing as much as 150 tons. The runways will be laid in pairs in four wind directions, thus permitting simultaneous landings and take-offs on each pair. The landing area for seaplanes will be two miles long and 1,000 to 1,500 feet wide. A special flight apron to handle helicopters will also be provided.

Although no date for its completion has been set, the field is rapidly taking shape. When finished, it is expected to handle nearly 1,000 flights a day—all international and transcontinental air traffic for New York City. Five times larger than La Guardia Field, it will not put the latter out of business, however. For La Guardia Field, the nation's busiest airport up to now, will continue



FRESH AIR DRILL. A general view of some 900 WAVES massed for their first calisthenic exercises at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. These girls will soon be ready to fill the jobs left by regular Navy men called to active duty.

to service flight schedules for short hauls in the east, and for points west to Chicago and north to Montreal.

The Battle of Shipping

A highly favorable sign of eventual Allied victory is the fact that we are quietly winning the battle of shipping, one of the most important of the war. Until last March, the tide had gone heavily against us, as we lost ships and valuable cargoes at a rate of as high as a million tons a month. But since last May there has hardly been a ship lost in the North Atlantic.

Part of this victory is due to the conquest of the submarine. The use of small aircraft carriers, improved detecting devices, and more escort vessels has proved highly successful, and several smashing blows at Axis submarine bases by Allied bombers have seriously crippled Axis undersea power. Also, the Allied ship pool is growing at a tremendous rate, as almost 200 merchant ships a month are commissioned. With the reopening of the Mediterranean the equivalent of five million tons of shipping will be added to the United Nations pool because of the reduction in the length of voyages.

From a military standpoint, this victory in the battle of shipping means that all requirements of the fighting forces can be met, and that the length of the war may be definitely shortened. At home, the improved ship-

ping situation is reflected in increased civilian supplies: coffee rations have been increased, cocoa and bananas and other tropical products are coming in in greater volume, and sugar quotas are being filled. Only the gasoline situation has not been relieved.

War production benefits also; there is no longer any fear that supplies of bauxite will be inadequate, and deliveries of cork, jute, and other critical materials seems to be improving. The chief problem now is not that of enough ships, but of enough men to handle them.

Federal Aid for Schools

Last year there were almost 400,000 children in the United States who could not go to school because their schools were closed for lack of teachers. This year the number will rise to half a million.

Last year nearly 200,000 teachers left their poorly paid posts for more lucrative war work or for armed service. In spite of frantic efforts on the part of school administrators, not all of these could be replaced. This fall, when schools reopen, one out of every four instructors will be new at his job—and often inadequately trained. And there will be 75,000 teaching positions vacant.

The key to the problem is money. School finances are tied to the property tax in most places, and property taxes are often limited by law. Thus in many states schools are receiving all the money they can possibly get under present circumstances, and they are helpless to raise teachers' salaries. As the cost of living continues to push upward, and as high-paying defense jobs open up because of the war, it is small wonder that teachers leave their profession.

In national convention a few days ago, the National Education Association considered this problem as its central theme, and concluded that the only real solution at this time is that of federal aid. To the Senate they sent an urgent telegram pleading for passage of an emergency measure now pending in Congress. If passed, it would permit the federal government to allocate \$300,000,000 to the individual states, part to be used to raise teachers' salaries, and the other part to improve educational opportunities in the poorer states. Educators have been pushing such a bill for 20 years, and now there seems some chance that it may be adopted.

News in Brief

With photo electric "eyes" to guide and protect their fingers, blind people are now being employed in war industry. Some 200 sightless laborers are at work making sheets and pillow cases for the armed forces. The device which makes their work possible has been developed over a period of four years' experimentation and it may be possible to extend its use to other industries of war and post-war manufacturing.

Mexico is beginning a program of industrialization under the leadership of its President Avila Camacho. Figuring in it is the Inter American Trade Scholarship program by which promising Mexican students will receive technical training in United States industries.

A recent Gallup poll shows that since January 1, 60% of American families have bought war stamps and bonds and 40% have not. Dr. Gallup points out that this may be a disappointing revelation to the Treasury Department, which has been urging people to buy bonds and stamps systematically.

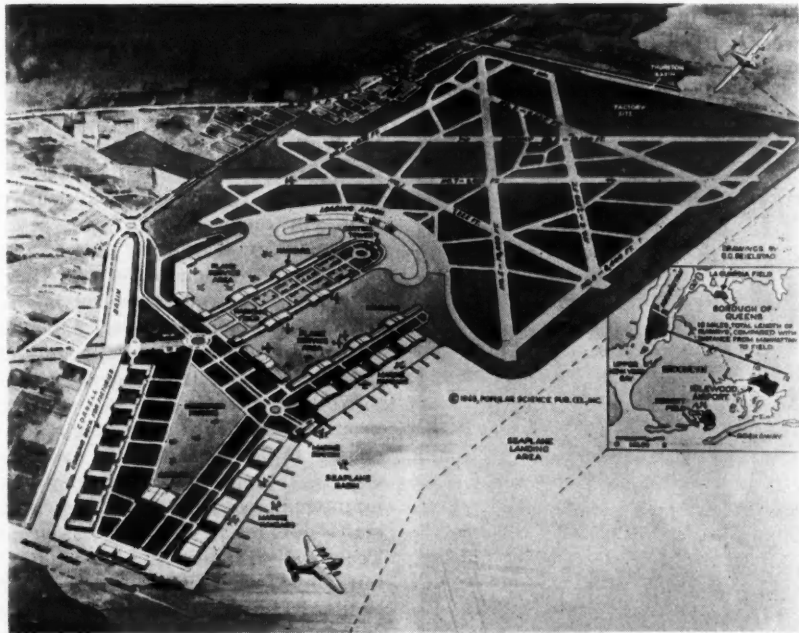
Three hundred thousand Boy Scouts have another for-the-duration service to their credit. They are delivering to grocers twice a month posters of general interest sent out by the Office of War Information.

THE "MADHOUSE" RUMORS

(Concluded from page 1)

for a fourth term appeal. I could name a dozen serious issues concerning which the wisdom of the administration may be challenged, a dozen controversial questions of great importance which can be and should be debated pro and con. Unquestionably problems of moment confront us, problems relating to labor, to food production, to racial conflicts, to inflation control, to postwar policy at home and abroad.

But the home front is not crumbling. All is not confusion in the national capital. Washington is not a madhouse. Reports of governmental weakness and ineptitude are encouraging our enemies. They are hurting the national morale. These reports should be refuted in the interest of the war effort. They should be refuted in the interest of truth.



LARGEST AIRPORT in the world is now under construction to serve the New York City area. It will be equipped to handle the largest transport and military planes.

The American Observer

Published weekly throughout the year (except two issues in December and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 744 Jackson Place, Washington 6, D. C.

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Wallace-Jones Feud Stirs Crisis

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short of the quotas recommended by other agencies.

Jones, on the other hand, criticizes officials of BEW for neglecting experienced firms in the course of negotiations for strategic materials and seeking out small and inexperienced ones. Furthermore, he claims that BEW has made a policy of "ignoring entirely the possibility of aid through private business" in favor of direct purchases by BEW employees.

In appraising the dispute, reverberations of which touch on military as well as civilian phases of the national effort, it is important to know just how far the responsibilities of the conflicting parties extend.

The Board of Economic Warfare came into being just after Pearl



Vice-President Wallace and Milo Perkins, who is administrative head of the Board of Economic Warfare.

Harbor. It grew out of the Economic Defense Board, which had been established earlier in the year to develop plans and programs for strengthening the nation's economic position. The present board has a threefold function. Through its Export Office, it uses the power of supply as an economic weapon. By licensing exporters, it decides how much of any given commodity shall be exported to any given country. In this way, it can withhold strategic materials from unfriendly countries, or countries through which the enemy might draw on our supplies, and it can also help to build up the economies of friendly nations. The bulk of our export trade, except for lend-lease, is now within the hemisphere.

At the same time, the Export Office is a check on our own supplies. Exporters can be prevented from sending out of the country materials the United States has need of or may require in the future course of the war.

The Import Office is even more important. On behalf of the government, it has bought up \$1,500,000,000 worth of goods since April of last year. This office searches the markets of the world for goods we need in our war effort. When supplies are short in the accessible markets, it arranges for production in foreign countries. An example of this is the BEW rubber project in Latin America.

But BEW sometimes—a great many times, in fact—buys things we do not need. And frequently it pays an exorbitant price for them. Part of this type of purchasing comes

under the heading of "preclusive buying." It means that we draw in all the supplies of something the Axis needs.

And this is where the third section of BEW comes in. The Office of Economic Warfare Analysis employs a set of economic G-men who spend their time studying the enemy's needs.

Captured enemy equipment is rushed to them, but not for its souvenir value. Analyzing a bit of shell, or part of a wrecked tank, they can find out the kind of ersatz materials that are being used. Then they can order exports of the metals which go into them stopped. And they can direct the import branch to buy up neutral supplies of material needed for Axis manufactures.

The OEWA can even affect military strategy. Most weapons carry little trademarks with the name of the company which made them. If BEW finds that a particularly deadly weapon is coming from a special company, it can turn the information over to the War Department so that future air attacks can be concentrated on destroying the plant where it is made.

This branch helps the Import Office on another count. It analyzes the economic positions of the neutral and allied countries with whom we are still trading. On the basis of its reports, the Import Office buys up whatever a friendly nation cannot sell, thus helping to stabilize its economy and fit it for greater aid to our cause.

Why We Buy Cotton

For example, we are now buying large quantities of cotton from Peru. The fertility of our own cotton-growing South makes this quite unnecessary so far as the American supply is concerned. But Peru's economy relies heavily on the cotton trade. Also, Japan was once her largest customer. By taking the cotton ourselves, we are strengthening Peru and depriving the enemy of something he badly needs.

The Office of Economic Warfare Analysis works with the FBI as well. Through the thousands of intercepted radio and mail messages which it studies each week, it can frequently find clues to subversive activity. Recently BEW learned that in a certain neutral country, the Nazis were wrecking American tires by spread-

ing tacks on the roads. Then it discovered a large export order for tacks. Investigation proved that the firm placing the order operated as an Axis front, and the shipment was stopped.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is a subsidiary of the Federal Loan Agency. Its prewar function was to stabilize various parts of the national economy by loans and purchases. As the defense program got under way, the President authorized RFC to acquire stockpiles of material the government would need, and when necessary, to form corporations of its own for making these commodities.

The Secretary of Commerce, who directs the RFC, was to do this through another subsidiary of the Federal Loan Agency—the Export-Import Bank of Washington. Through this bank, loans could be made to friendly countries, to stabilize them as sources of supply for us. The Export-Import Bank could also make loans to export and import firms to encourage private enlargement of the national stockpiles.

The power over stockpiling was turned over to the BEW in April, 1942. RFC still retained power of the purse, and it also retained its connection with the Export-Import Bank—and thus a powerful hold over the actions of individual export-import firms.

Wallace charged that Jones failed completely to carry out the program entrusted to him. He claimed also that when BEW took over, Jones tried to hamstring its activities by holding back needed funds.

One of the most sensational instances he listed had to do with quinine. Although cinchona bark, in which quinine is found, can be obtained in South America, the Far Eastern strain contains five to eight per cent more quinine extract. When the Philippines were evacuated, General MacArthur sent a plane-load of cinchona seeds to Australia, with a strong recommendation that they must be planted if the Army's divisions in the tropics were to be protected against malaria.

Lt. Col. Arthur Fischer, who brought the seeds from the Philippines, informed the Board of Economic Warfare, proposing immediate planting in Costa Rica. In three weeks, BEW had worked out a detailed plan for getting the crop under



Jesse Jones

cultivation. The project was approved by the War Department and tentatively by the RFC. And then, according to Wallace, RFC raised objections.

RFC protested that the trees would have no wartime use, since stripping is impossible before a tree is two and one-half years old. Ordinarily, trees are not stripped for six or seven years, and profit on those stripped earlier is much smaller.

Delays and Inaction

While RFC was in complete command, delays and inaction were the rule, as the Wallace report has it. For instance, castor seeds are needed for the oil which protects airplane motors and certain types of industrial machinery. In November, 1941, OPM asked for the purchase of 178,571 long tons of castor seeds. On April 13, 1942, none had been bought. Other types of fats and oils are now scarce—as evidenced by the fact that housewives are being asked to save waste cooking fat for industrial use—but although it was October 1941 when OPM called for 30,000 long tons of fats, and February, 1942 when it expanded the order to 317,499 long tons, by April of last year when the BEW took over, only 2,200 tons had been ordered. Nothing had yet arrived in this country.

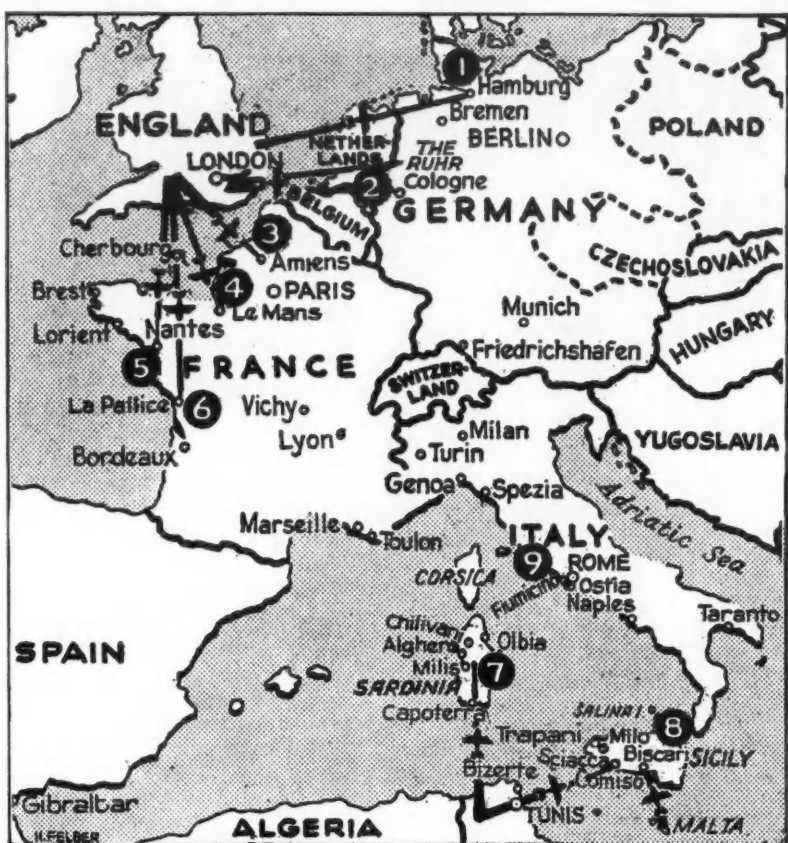
The highest military priority goes to a material known as tantaline. It is essential to the manufacture of radio tubes. In March, 1942, WPB asked for a million tons of it. By April, none had been bought or even ordered.

As an example of the difference in BEW's treatment of such cases, Wallace said government agents and private producers from Australia to Southern Rhodesia have now been contacted for orders of tantaline. By the end of this year, he estimated that imports would be ten times the total world production of this commodity in 1939. Issuing a complete denial of the Wallace charges, Jones catalogued some alleged instances of BEW incompetence. He claims that BEW took six months to prepare seven contracts for 47 million feet of mahogany, of which none has been delivered. A second charge is that BEW took seven and a half months to contract for six to nine million gallons of Canadian alcohol.

Wallace wants Congress to appropriate money for strategic purchases to BEW directly. As it is, Congress appropriates money for maintenance of BEW's administrative staff—not for its buying program. Technically, Jones, as head of RFC, must buy what BEW orders. But Wallace contends that even though checks covering BEW purchases may be signed eventually, delays are seriously hindering the war effort.



Workers in a rubber warehouse at Manaus, Brazil, cut balls of rubber for grading and washing. Rubber is at the top of the list of critical materials.



The numbered circles indicate recent Allied bombing targets

The Ruhr Is Hard Hit

(Concluded from page 1)

contain some of the main war plants and stock piles of Europe. Explosives hit the steel and chemical plants of Krefeld, the foundries and railway repair shops of Mulheim, the steel and textile mills of Barman, the I. G. Farben chemical plants of Elberfeld, the coal mines of Bochum, and the synthetic oil plants of Gelsenkirchen. Twenty-four hours after the raids at Elberfeld, fires were reported blazing in the chemical and textile works there. Towns were left without water, gas, electricity, or telephone service. While some of the losses from these raids is temporary, much of the damage is irreparable.

Many of these cities were heavily bombed in the epic May raids as well. Three of the most important Ruhr cities suffered most heavily then: Essen, center of gravity of the area, and headquarters of the famous Krupp Cast Steel Works; Dortmund, greatest coal mining center of the Ruhr Valley, seat of gigantic steel works and synthetic oil plants, and strategic harbor; and Dusseldorf, headquarters of one of Germany's greatest armament firms, Rheinmetall-Borsig.

Concentration of Industry

Yet such is the concentration of industry, of manufacturing and mining centers of the Ruhr Valley, in which all of these cities are situated, that it will take many months of even fiercer and more sustained round-the-clock bombing to incapacitate it. This horseshoe-shaped region of the "black valleys" of the Ruhr is smaller than the combined areas of the states of Delaware and Rhode Island. Yet here are concentrated mines deeper and infinitely richer than Pennsylvania's, railway centers denser and more complex than New York's and Chicago's, plants more numerous and productive than Detroit's and Pittsburgh's, and a system of waterways more intricate than the Great Lakes. So it earns the title of "the industrial heart of Germany."

Before the war 80 per cent of Germany's heavy industries were concentrated here—chemical, power, and metallurgical works. Now, despite an extensive program of decentralization of manufacture and the development of resources in conquered territories, it still has more than a fifth of Germany's industrial capacity and produces three-fourths of Germany's coal, four-fifths of her coke, and two-thirds of her raw iron and steel. There are two reasons for this: the incredibly rich coal and coke deposits of the area, and its strategic transport position which has been highly developed.

No mines in the world can rival those of the Ruhr in wealth. Of the total German production of 186,000,000 tons of hard coal in 1938, 127,000,000 tons came from the 10-by-40-mile Rhenish-Westphalia belt in the region. Geologists and mine experts estimate that the supply will last at least 2,500 years if mined at the 1926 annual rate of 112,000,000 tons. Although coal has been mined here for over 600 years, it was not until the beginning of the last century that the gently undulating country of small fertile farms began to yield to blast furnaces and chimneys, slag and smoke.

Munitions Works

With coking coal and coal gas so valuable in metallurgy, the Ruhr rapidly developed as an iron and steel center. Before the First World War iron ore was obtained from Alsace-Lorraine, and metals from Luxemburg, with which the Germans had a customs union. Thus, by 1914 the modest coal company founded in Mulheim by Matthias Stinnes in 1810 emerged as the gargantua of armament-making. Here arose the world-famous Thyssen works as well. Thus, too, the modern Krupp Cast Steel Works had its beginnings in a small, slate-gray building in 1818 when Essen's population numbered less than 3,500. The "Big Bertha"

long-range gun capable of shelling Paris was one of the secret weapons made here. Today, the life of Essen, with its teeming populace of half a million, revolves around the Krupp works.

Just as coal is the heart of the Ruhr, the intricate web of rail and water communications is its veins and arteries. The Ruhr River itself is a northeastern tributary of the famous Rhine River, which Germans have often called "the great factory street." Duisburg, at the junction of the two rivers, is the western gateway of the Ruhr. Europe's largest river and canal port beyond tide-water, it had an annual freight of 22,000,000 tons before the war and was the world's busiest inland harbor. Shipping and the tremendous iron works supported a population of 450,000. The total Rhine canal network totals 7,000 miles.

Canal linkage gives Ruhr products access to the Black Sea via the Danube, Central Europe via the Rhine-Herne Canal, and the North Sea via the Ems-Rhine Canal at Dortmund. Through the last, Swedish ores come to the Ruhr. Dortmund is thus not only the greatest coal mining center of the valley, but one of Germany's foremost transshipment ports. British Chief Air Marshal Harris and American Major General Eaker have made the crippling of canal and port facilities one of their first objectives, for these are more difficult to repair than railroads. Duisburg, Dortmund, Dusseldorf, and Essen, all major ports, have all suffered bombings.

Railways

Crisscrossing railways thread the Ruhr Valley to form the densest rail system in the world. It is so complicated that the French were unable to master its maze when they occupied the area from 1923 to 1925. These transport facilities are essential for conveying raw materials and finished products, and feeding the working populace. Although some of the most important traffic centers such as Hamm, the great eastern railway city, have not yet been seriously hit, and others have not been hit at all, transport is most seriously affected by the R.A.F.'s blows.

Each rail center is so vast, however, that not even 500 of the heaviest block-busters could cripple it, and there are also hundreds of private sidings, and thousands of miles of interconnected private track. Attacks on such lines are therefore literally wars of attrition, physically as well as morally. Effective camouflage and underground construction of everything possible save blast furnaces and rolling mills reduce discernible industrial objectives to a minimum. But whether or not a

bomb hits its specific industrial target, if it falls in the Ruhr it is apt to touch rail lines which are almost as inescapable here as air itself.

In some crowded spots the population attains a density of 3,000 per square mile. With sources of food distant and living communities outside the mining and factory areas, adequate transportation is an immediate living and producing necessity. In one raid last year, the output of one mine fell from 12,000 to 9,000 tons per day because of damage to dwellings of workers. The large-scale evacuation of refugees from bomb-strafed centers creates another bottleneck. Anything which curtails transportation in the Ruhr has far-reaching effects on total Reich production. Although the large proportion of Germany's major factories are now located elsewhere, many of them rely upon the coal, coke, or iron from the Ruhr.

Industries Moved

Considerations of safety, far-flung fighting fronts, new sources of material have resulted in the dispersion of much of German industry. Smoking steel works have been moved east. Factories for manufacturing guns and shells are now found in Silesia, Czechoslovakia, and near Vienna. Bialystok on the old Polish-Lithuanian border now operates the great textile plants of Germany. In Poland a little Ruhr is being created. Norway now houses many of the I. G. Farben plants for drugs, explosives, and poison gas. Moving was initiated last fall, after most of the eight Farben plants in Wuppertal were hit by the R.A.F.

It is no longer entirely true that the destiny of the Ruhr is the destiny of Germany. But the heavy industry—the coal mines, the blast furnaces, and the rolling mills—cannot be moved. Destruction of the Ruhr would certainly seriously affect manufacturing and morale, even if it would not entirely cripple the German war machine. Whether the Germans could sustain the loss of another key center is indeed questionable. R.A.F. and U.S. air chiefs have calculated the minimum damage necessary to bring a decision of German defeat. While the calculation is secret, it is unofficially conceded that one-third to one-half of the Reich's industrial establishment must be destroyed. The Ruhr still represents more than one-fifth.

In continuing to concentrate on the Ruhr and transforming its black valley of coal and smog to one of death and destruction, the Allies are following the classic principle used by Napoleon: "Strike with the greatest possible concentration against the decisive points." The Ruhr remains "the target for tonight."



The German war machine seeks to escape American and British bombs by moving vital war industries from the areas shown on the left to eastern regions indicated by factory symbols.

Sidelights on the News

Dewey for President?

What will Dewey do about running for the presidency? That is one of the big political puzzles of the moment, and it was a frequently asked question at the recent Governors' Conference. Writing on the subject in the *Christian Science Monitor*, Roscoe Drummond says that Dewey is today the front ranking presidential prospect of all the 24 Republican state executives:

The puzzle is unsolved because Mr. Dewey just cannot seem to persuade anyone that, however much he says "no" without even a flicker of a smile—



Thomas E. Dewey

he will not be a candidate. Perhaps he cannot even persuade himself.

The governor has put his position on the record so often that in talking with correspondents at Columbus he preferred not to repeat himself in quotes. The position he takes is that he is not a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 1944, that he will not seek the nomination, but that he will flatly disavow any person who tries to promote his candidacy. Twice, thrice—before election and after—he has stated publicly that he intends to serve out his full term in Albany which would take him to 1947.

That is saying a lot. There is no doubt that Mr. Dewey means it literally and is acting literally in accord with it. But is it enough to remove him from the field? Probably no combination of words could do that, although he has not experimented with the statement that he would not accept the nomination if the convention insisted upon giving it to him.

In any event, the Dewey stock continues to be listed on the presidential market however much the governor tries to mark it off. It is conceivable and certainly not uncomplimentary to suggest that Mr. Dewey is reasonably pleased at his inability to remove himself.

Soldiers Don't Sing

"Who can sing songs to an earthquake?" asks Anne O'Hare McCormick in her column in the *New York Times*. The war is a tragedy which

rises to the heights of crashing symphony, but it is a tragedy too big for song or singing:

Shuffling down 48th Street a day or two ago was a company of hot and tired soldiers trying to sing. A boy in front led off with a few bars of "Dixie." Another started whistling a tune from "Oklahoma." A big fellow with a bass voice groped around among his vocal chords for the right key for "A Long, Long Trail." It was no go. A few voices took up one melody or the other and gave up. The men wanted to sing. They had come a long way from home and were going farther, and they wanted the sense of fusion and emotional release that comes from joining in a great chorus. But they had no song. The songs inspired by the last war don't fit the present mood, and this war produces no music of its own. The German prisoners in the southern internment camps sing as they march to mess, but angrily, as a way of expressing defiance. The Italians belie their reputation by not singing at all.

The English and Americans have not found the right songs. Nobody has yet been able to put into words and music what the fighting men feel and fear and wonder. It is not a singing war, because it is not a sentimental war. It is beyond the human scale. The power and range of the weapons, the immensity and strangeness of the battlefield, make it as impersonal as the bombardier who releases his cargo of death on "military targets" stuffed with people he cannot see.

War Weather

The science of meteorology is today an indispensable part of warfare. No major military move is made without careful reference to the weather. Joseph Driscoll, writing in the *New York Herald Tribune*, throws some light on this important subject:

The biggest development in modern meteorology is the theory of the polar front and the different types of air masses and boundaries between air masses, which we call fronts. A front is where the weather takes place. If a cold mass of air comes in contact with a hot mass, the hot has to go up. That's what we know of as weather, an area of rising air currents.

The Japanese have a natural weather advantage. In the north Pacific the weather moves generally from west to east or from northwest to southeast. Any raiding force would move in the same direction and could travel at the same speed. It would have coverage approaching Alaska or Hawaii, but none on the return trip.

A weather front there moves at the right speed to serve as a smoke screen for a task force—about 16 knots.

Although the Japanese have the advantages for all ordinary weather, we have an advantage when it comes to tropical storms originating around Truk and the rest of the Caroline Islands, as these storms move in the general direction of Japan and would provide coverage for our forces. If we had been able to retain our bases in the Philippines, our fleet could have ridden the tail of a typhoon right into Japan. It was knowledge of this that probably influenced Japan, alone among nations, to refuse to exchange weather reports in peacetime.



Wildlife and the War

War needs for meat and hides have drawn attention to the by-products of sportsmen's activities as an important economic asset. In an article entitled *WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WAR*, printed by the *AMERICAN FORESTS* magazine, Albert M. Day shows how wildlife can help the war effort, but he insists that the war should not be an excuse for exploitation of these resources:

Food and other war-induced shortages of animal products have focused public attention on the economic value of the nation's wildlife—including animals, birds, and fishes—that we have been protecting and propagating as recreational and esthetic assets. Granted that they should make their contribution to the national welfare in all its aspects, fitting them into the war effort creates some difficult problems.

Many people, for example, want the game laws relaxed, game sanctuaries opened to hunting and commercial fishing regulations liberalized, farmers and stockmen who are struggling against many obstacles to raise more food than they have ever raised before do not like to see wildlife eating their crops and competing for forage on the range lands—losses that at ordinary times do not generally disturb them greatly.

Public officials, state and national conservation organizations, and individual sportsmen have discussed the problems of wartime wildlife conservation and notwithstanding unanimity of desire that fish and wildlife play their full part, there is an undercurrent of fear lest this lead to unbridled exploitation.

Having seen the passenger pigeon and the heath hen lost forever, the buffalo, the woodland caribou, the mountain sheep and the sea otter constantly declining in numbers and then in contrast having watched the return of the waterfowl, the antelope, the beavers, the fur seals and the deer, conservationists are loath to countenance interruption of recent progress. The restoration of wildlife is dependent on public appreciation and support built on the foundation of recreation and enjoyment of the out-of-doors, not on the commercial value of the meat, hides, fur, or feathers that are its by-products. Yet we need these by-products in our war effort and the civilian economy that must sustain it.

The poundage of meat annually produced from game in this country is as surprising as it is significant. The 1942 reported kill in meat dressed out as are domestic animals in packing plants totals more than 255 million pounds. Deer alone yielded more than 59 million, elk nine million, antelope, bear, moose, mountain sheep and goats totaled 16 million pounds. Ducks amounted to 32 million pounds, geese and brant more than three million, pheasants more than 30 million, rabbits about 69 million, squirrels over 22 million. Quail, grouse, partridges, doves, pigeons, turkeys, woodcock, and rails made up the balance. To this was added the enormous poundage of game and commercial fish.

Not only the meat but hides of certain big game animals are economically valuable. For the past decade the United States has imported an average of nearly a million deer hides a year, mostly from South America and New Zealand. They were used for the manufacture of moccasins, slippers, gloves, and other garments. Now they are needed for gloves and mukluks for our troops in the Arctic. To meet a war-caused decline in imports and increasing military needs, a plan, worked out by the Army, the War Production Board, and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior, calls upon the states to salvage every possible deer and elk hide.

Failure to harvest the game crop means not only a loss of part of the resource, but, in some instances at least, loss of forage and other crops consumed by the excess game. A superabundance of game is bound to raise a cry for relaxation of the game laws and increasing difficulty in enforcement. Resistance on the part of protective agencies to legitimate calls for relief for "more meat" might conceivably result in control being wrested from the agencies set up for care and protection of wildlife, thus perhaps setting back the conservation program for decades. The situation calls for careful and intelligent handling.

The danger of overselling the idea of utilization can be just as serious as the philosophy that wild things are to be enjoyed only for recreational and esthetic values, and that no economic use should be tolerated. Conservationists must see that the gains that have come so slowly during the past 25 years are not cast aside due to wartime hysteria. Basic breeding stocks must not be raided. The management practices now adopted must be only those that will utilize surplus populations and will not endanger the future of the resource.



U. S. NAVY FROM ACME

Weather is one of the most important factors in military operations. This is a touch of rough weather in the Aleutians.